

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /180 W

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R 170310Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9198

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 12296

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ID

SUBJ: MALIK ON AVAILABILITY OF PL 480 COMMODITIES

REF: JAKARTA 12230

1. DURING CONVERSATION OCTOBER 16 FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK MENTIONED HAVING DISCUSSED INDONESIA'S NEEDS FOR PL 480 WITH THE SECRETARY IN NEW YORK. HE SAID HE HAD STRESSED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD GIVE INDONESIA AT LEAST TWO YEARS' NOTICE IF PL 480 IS TO BE WITHDRAWN. IT WAS TRUE, HE SAID, THAT INDONESIA HAS EARNED SOME ADDITIONAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE THIS YEAR BUT IF THIS WAS TO BE IMMEDIATELY EXPENDED ON FOOD NEEDS, INDONESIA WOULD GET NO PLACE WITH ITS DEVELOPMENT.

2. I TOLD MALIK THAT WE HOPED THINGS WOULD BE BETTER NEXT YEAR BUT THAT THIS YEAR THE PROSPECTS ARE BLEAK I SAID WE HAD BEEN TOLD AND HAD INFORMED WIDJOJO AND OTHERS REPEATEDLY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PL 480 SUPPLIES FFOR INDONESIA BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH OF 1974. HAPPILY, I QUICKLY ADDED, WIDJOJO HAD DONE A GOOD JOB OF PROCURING RICE AND HAD UNDER CONTRACT ENOUGH RICE TO SEE INDONESIA THROUGH THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. I SAID THE RICE SITUATION HERE FOR THE NEXT FEW
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MONTHS LOOKED REASONABLY ASSURED TO ME.

3. MALIK MADE NO RESPONSE TO MY ATTEMPTS TO BRIGHTEN THE PICTURE. HIS ATTITUDE SUGGESTED THAT HE FOUND THE PROSPECTS OF NO U.S. SUPPLIES OF PL 480 ALL BUT UNACCEPTABLE.

4. AMBASSADOR THAJEB TOLD ALEX SHAKOW THAT WHEN HE HAD DISCUSSED PL 480 WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND HAD EXPLAINED PRIORITIES FOR INDOCHINA SUHARTO HAD COMMENTED

RATHER ACIDLY, "WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME PRIORITY?"

5. COMMENT: MALIK'S UNUSUAL SOUR Demeanor WHEN I TOLD HIM BAD NEWS ON PL 480 RICE ALMOST CERTAINLY REFLECTED HIS APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANCE PRESIDENT SUHARTO ATTACHES TO CONTINUED U.S. PL 480 SUPPORT. EVEN THOUGH INDONESIA (AT CONSIDERABLE COST ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES) APPEARS TO HAVE ITS RICE SUPPLIES FOR NEXT THREE OF FOUR MONTHS REASONABLY ASSURED, IT WOULD BE OF GREAT POLITICAL BENEFIT TO US IF WE COULD INDICATE TO THEM ANYTIME SOON THAT WE WILL TRY TO MAKE SOME RICE AVAILABLE TO THEM DURING THIS FY AS PART OF OUR IGGI PLEDGE. I REALIZE THIS IS PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES BUT IF THESE SHOULD CHANGE AND 50,000-100,000 TONS COULD BE PROVIDED, IT WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE U.S. -INDONESIAN RELATIONS.
GALBRAITH

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